**THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

BIENNIAL REPORT OF SEC'Y OF STATE

1921-1924

Arkansas, when discovered by the Europeans, was inhabited by Indians, so named by Columbus because he believed the land he had discovered was a part of India. Tribes in what is now Arkansas were the Osage and the Quapaws. The Osage occupied north of the Arkansas River and into Missouri. The Quapaws lived south of the River into Louisiana and Texas.

The Quapaws gave Arkansas its name. It was first called "AR-KAN-SAH" until 1826.

There was just one route in the Territory from St Louis by way of Davidsonville and Arkansas Post to Monroe, Louisiana. Mail was carried on horseback and delivered once a month, and you paid the postage when you received a letter.

Because Arkansas was a wilderness and the abode of Indians and buffalo, few people came here in the 18th century. Arkansas was not in the main current of westward migration. Finally people came to Arkansas because it was not heavily populated and there was plenty of room for farming and plenty of wild animals for food.

**ARKANSAS EMM1GRATION**

Arkansas as a section of the Louisiana Purchase was ceded by France to the United States in 1803, and the population was 400 white people. In 1712 there were only 28 white families living in the whole of the Louisiana Territory stretching from Fort Toulouse in Alabama.

Population grew after Statehood. 50% of the population lived on farms and in small towns until after 1970.

How old were you when you first went to a large city? or even to our State Capitol?

Arkansas was mostly rural and most of our heritage was preserved in stories, legends, and songs.

Housing went from shacks to brick homes. Clothing was from overalls and now back to JEANS. Transportation from riding a horse or wagon to boats to cars to trains to buses to airplanes.

Once used were the hitching posts and Board Walks now we have hard surfaced road and walks.

Saturday was the day the family all piled into the wagon and went to town. Ate a lunch that had been packed at home.

Home was a front porch with a swing where the family sat in summer and in front of the fireplace in winter.

Crops were Cotton, Corn, Strawberries, and Peaches.

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**

Arkansas was first Indian possession.

Spain acquired title to Arkansas by discovery.

France acquired title by occupation.

Spain acquired title by treaty.

France again had it ceded to them.

United States acquired title April 30, 1803

Spain passed possession to France

France gave it to the United States.

**THE SEVEN WONDERS OF ARKANSAS**

1. HOT SPRINGS: Ten years before we became a Territory in 1819 people came from New Orleans to bath in the hot waters.

2. Diamond Mine located at Murfreesboro in Pike County, Arkansas.

3. Geological Resources. Arkansas has a greater variety than any other state.

4. Scenic Beauty: Playgrounds and Parks.

5. Mammoth Springs in Fulton County.

6. Diamond Cave located at Jasper in Newton County.

7. The variety of fertility of the soil.

And I wonder if Blanchard Cavern should not be counted among the above seven wonders.

**DATES OF ARKANSAS**

1541: DeSoto was the first white man to touch Arkansas. The second was Father Marquette, a missionary.

1673: Marquette and Joliet visited Arkansas.

1682: LaSalle named it Louisiana. Some of his men remained and built a house on the Arkansas River near Arkansas Post.

1762: Arkansas Post was the first white settlement. Henry DeTonti was known as the father of Arkansas.

1803: December 2. One million acres in a grant of land was made to people who settled near Arkansas Post. Population at that time was 400.

1804: Arkansas was a part of Louisiana.

1805: What is now Arkansas and the lower part of Missouri was the District of New Madrid.

1806: The lower part of New Madrid was made into District of Arkansas.

1808: Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Purchase for the United States.

1810: Only 1062 inhabitants in this wilderness roamed by Indians.

1810: Butterfield Stage Coach route formed.

1811: New Madrid earthquake. Results: Sunken lands in Craighead County.

1812: Territory of Louisiana was reorganized as territory of Missouri.

1813: Arkansas County comprising a large part of present state of Arkansas.

1815: Missouri created Lawrence County out of southeast part of New Madrid County.

1817: A military post located at Belle Point, later Fort Smith.

1818: Quapaw Indians gave up land between the Arkansas River and the red River. The first white man to visit Belle Point was in 1722 which then was in the territory of Missouri.

1818: Clark, Hempstead, and Pulaski Counties were formed out of Crawford County.

1819: The first Arkansas Territory Legislature at Arkansas Post.

1819: Arkansas made a Territory on July 4th, and James Miller was the first Territorial Governor: 1819-1824.

1819: Arkansas was divided into five Counties: Arkansas, Lawrence, Pulaski, Crawford, and Hempstead Counties.

1819: The white people were ordered out of the Indian Territory in Arkansas. The Cherokees moved in from Tennessee.

1820: First steamboat from Little Rock to Van Buren was the "Robert Thomas."

1821: Capitol removed from Arkansas Post to Little Rock.

1821: Congress authorized the opening of a road from Memphis to Little Rock on to Fort Smith.

1821: Arkansas Post has had four flags flown over it.

1828: Part of Cherokee County added to Arkansas.

1829: Pope County formed from Crawford County.

1829: Mail carried overland and uncertain of delivery. Post Office Department established a weekly mail by steamboat between Little Rock and Memphis.

1830: Post Office established at Mulberry Camp Ground.

1832: Work on the State House began, in Little Rock.

1833: Scott County carved out of Crawford County.

1836: Arkansas became a state and came in as a slave state. 3/4 people were white people.

1836: First state penitentiary was built.

1837: Franklin County formed out of eastern Crawford County.

1840: A store at Elmore on Fayetteville road and one at Natural Dam were the only stores outside Van Buren.

1842: Courthouse built at Van Buren which was the first permanent location for the Courthouse.

1927: November 17: many banks in Arkansas closed their doors.

1930: The Depression years.

1931: The Hot Lunch program for school children.

1934: The New Deal—Federal Relief Programs—Old Age Pensions

1936: Social Security.

1942: World War It.

1945: War over.

1961: Arkansas law on obscenity

**DIAMOND CAVE**

This is also a wonder cave in our state that is located at Jasper, in Newton County.

**HOT SPRINGS**

Hot Springs is located in Garland County east of Little Rock, and people from all over the world come to this health resort. I read somewhere that people were coming from New Orleans to Hot Springs before 1819 for the baths .

**DIAMOND MINE**

This Diamond Mine is located in Pike County, and this is the only Diamond Mine in the United States, and diamonds have been found similar to those found in South Africa.

The mine is a plowed field where people can hunt for the diamonds and is located near Murfreesboro.

**LAND MARKER**

In Monroe County, near Marianna, is a monument with this inscription: "This stone marks the BASE established November 10, 1815, from which lands of the Louisiana Purchase were surveyed by United States engineers. The first survey from this point was made to satisfy claims of soldiers of the War of 1812 with land bounties."

These are just a few highlights of important land marks of Arkansas.

There has been much bad advertising of our state such as: The Slow Train Through Arkansas and The Arkansas Traveler, yet this is one of the most famous paintings of Arkansas. This was painted by a son of Rev. Cephes Washburn who was a missionary to the Indians for over forty years in this area. It was painted in 1858.

The story goes that the Arkansas Traveler stopped at house where the father sat on the porch playing the "Fiddle," and the roof of house needed to be repaired, Children were barefoot etc. The Traveler asked where the road led, and the Father replied that he had lived a long time and had never seen it go anywhere. Then the traveler asked for lodging and the answer was, "There ain't but one dry spot in the house, and me and my ole woman has to have that spot." So the Traveler asked why he didn't repair the roof, and he replied, "Well, when it is raining I can't fix it and when it is dry I don't need to." The Traveler reached for the fiddle, and he played such music that he was offered a place to sleep.

Arkansas has been known for Watermelons, unshaven Arkies, Moonshiners, Hookworms, illiteracy, and hillbillies. That a large per cent of people don't wear shoes.

McMath wanted "To make something out of Arkansas."

***[Editor's note: According to the internet via Google, Sidney Sanders McMath was the 34th governor of the State of Arkansas, 1949-1953.]***

Rockefeller said: "A backward state is one which has gone no place since the Civil War."

Neither did Bob Burns or Lum and Abner benefited Arkansas by their comedy that we all liked to listen to on the radio.

One historian described Arkansas during the Territorial period as "A brawling, frontier Territory having more than its share of desperadoes, lynchings, and wielders of the toothpick." ***[knife]***

**PONTOON BRIDGE**

This bridge was built across the Arkansas River from Russellville to Dardanelles, and it was the longest Pontoon Bridge in the world. It was built on many small boats that floated on the water. It was completed and in use by April 1891. It was made of 2,208 feet of logs and it was 18 feet wide and supported by 72 boats.



The summer of 1926 Nancy Cottrell and I were attending Arkansas Tech so when we. heard that the Pontoon Bridge was scheduled to be towed away on Monday, a group of us walked across the bridge. It was towed away the next morning.

**MAMMOTH SPRINGS**

Which is located in the Northeast corner of Fulton County. It is in the center of the Community and is an 18 acre spring and said to be the largest spring in the world. It really looks very deep and difficult to realize that the lake comes from this spring. It is also said that it the coldest spring in America.

**BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAVERN**

This is an underground wonderland, even greater than Mammoth Cave in Kentucky or Carlsbad Cavern in New Mexico. It is located in Northeast Arkansas, and it makes one wonder how many such caverns are hidden in our mountains.

**STONE COUNTY FESTIVAL**

This festival is the Arkansas Folk Music festival under the direction of Jimmy Driftwood. He may not be the Director of this today. They gather and play old instruments and sing and dance.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

At the Community of Cane Hill there is evidence of an old fort. They say it is the work of white men and not the Indians. The Black Hill Indians say that the fort had been there as long as they knew about. It is built around a spring in the center of McClellan's Place. Part of the stone wall is still standing. Daniel Boone was one of the first white men to climb the hill in 1804 and named the hill. It is today under cultivation so thus passed away one of the early landmarks of the Northeastern part of the state.

**MOUNT MAGAZINE**

This mountain is located in Logan County and is the loftiest mountain peak between the Appalachian and the Rocky Mountains.

**NEWSPAPERS**

The first Newspaper to be published west of Little Rock was the Arkansas Intelligencer at Van Buren on 22 of January, 1842, and in 1859 was sold to Fort Smith.

The second paper was the Frontier Whig published from 1844-1846.

The third paper was the Van Buren Press published 1859-1862 then appeared again after the Civil War in 1866 and had been continuous with exception of two issues when equipment was destroyed by fire in October 1892. In 1914 it consolidated with the Van Buren Argus giving us The Van Buren Press Argus. This past January the Press Argus was sold and also consolidated with The Courier.